

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /069 W

----- 001573

R 310730Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANAA

CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 0773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SO, SA

SUBJECT: GSDR BEGINS SEMINAR FOR SOMALI SHEIKHS

1. SOMALI SECSTATE FOR JUSTICE AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OPENED ON MAY 27

TWO-WEEK SEMINAR FOR SEVENTY-FOUR GOVERNMENT-EMPLOYED SOMALI SHEIKHS OR MULLAHS WHO LEAD PRAYERS IN BENADIR REGION MOSQUES (MOGADISCIO).

SEMINAR IS DESIGNED TO INFORM SHEIKHS OF GSDR POLICIES AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON SHEIKHS' ROLE IN SOMALI DEVELOPMENT. SHEIKHS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN TURN BY PRES. SIAD AND GSDR VICE PRESIDENTS.

2. IN OPENING ADDRESS, SECSTATE ABDISALAM SHEIKH HUSSEIN SAID THAT GSDR WAS FOLLOWING TENETS OF ISLAM IN ADVANCING WELFARE OF SOMALI PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT MULLAHS AND ISLAM HAD PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN LIBERATING SOMALIA FROM COLONIZERS AND WOULD NOT BE ABANDONED NOW.

3. HE WARNED MULLAHS AGAINST THOSE TROUBLEMAKERS WHO EXPLOITED ISLAM IN ATTEMPTING DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN GSDR AND SOMALI PEOPLE. HE TOLD MULLAHS THAT THEY SHOULD LEAD PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHARI'ATIC LAW AND MAKE MOST OF THE TWO-WEEK TRAINING COURSE IN ORDER TO CARRY

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WORD TO OTHER MULLAHS AS WELL (I.E., NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYED MULLAHS).

4. SECSTATE'S ADDRESS WAS PUBLICIZED ON FRONT PAGE OF OFFICIAL DAILY OKTOBER STAR MAY 29.

5. GSDR SEMINAR FOR SOMALI SHEIKHS IS MOST OSTENTATIOUS EVIDENCE TO DATE OF SIAD'S ATTEMPT TO LIVE UP TO AGREEMENT IMPLICIT IN JOINT SAUDI/SOMALI COMMUNIQUE SIGNED IN JIDDA THAT ISLAMIC LAW WOULD RULE IN SOMALIA. SEMINAR COMES ON EVE OF ARAB SUMMIT WHICH GSDR STILL BELIEVES WILL BE HELD IN MOGADISCIO.

6. AT MINIMUM, SIAD'S HOPE IS THAT HE CAN KEEP MULLAHS FIRMLY UNDER THUMB AND, IN HIS OWN WORDS, PROVIDE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH QTE RELIGION CAN GO PARALLEL WITH SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM WITHOUT EITHER HARMING THE OTHER UNQTE. MULLAHS ATTENDING SEMINAR ARE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO LEAD FRIDAY DISCUSSIONS IN LOCAL MOSQUES. ALLNCON- GOVERNMENT MULLAHS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM SUCH ACTIVITY SINCE FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING JANUARY EXECUTION OF TEN SHEIKHS.

7. NON-GOVERNMENT MULLAHS ARE ONES SIAD MUST WORRY ABOUT HOWEVER AND IF THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY NOW HAVE DISPENSATION TO MORE ACTIVELY PURSUE LETTER OF SHARI'ATIC LAW, THEN GSDR POLITICAL PROGRAMS WILL ONCE AGAIN BECOME THEIR TARGET. WE ARE IN SHORT NOT RPT NOT CONFIDENT THAT SIAD CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP LID ON MULLAHS' ANTIPATHY TO SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOMALIA, ESPECIALLY WITH GSDR NOW ENCOURAGING BELIEF THAT ISLAMIC LAW TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER.

HAMRICK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SEMINARS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750191-0247
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975052/aaaaaayz.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GSDR BEGINS SEMINAR FOR SOMALI SHEIKHS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SO, SA, (ABDISALAM SHEIKH HUSSEIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006